THE

GOSPEL ADVOCATE,

CONDUCTED BY A

Society of Gentlemen.

VOLUME V.

FOR THE YEAR 1825.

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ERRATUM.—In Bishop Griswold's Address, published in the last number, the word "SERMON," page 347, and 15th line from the bottom, should have been "*Season*."

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PREFACE.

It has been our practice, at the close of each volume of the Gospel Advocate, to make a little pause, that we might review the labours of the preceding year. This we have done, in order the better to adapt our work to the exigences of the Church. Making no pretensions to infallibility, in consequence of being editors, we were sensible that we needed all the benefits to be obtained from experience. In establishing, and thus far conducting, this Journal, we did not seek to gratify any private feelings, or to advance any private interests of our own; and, as we have thus laboured for the Church, and not for ourselves, it may well be supposed, that we endeavoured to accommodate the Advocate to the spiritual wants of the Church. If we have, at any time, mistaken those wants, or the best means for supplying them, it has been to us a cause of deep regret.

Notwithstanding the discouraging circumstances which have arisen in the course of our editorial labours, we have uniformly received the assurance, that, in general, our motives have been duly appreciated, and that the Gospel Advocate has been favourably received. With such an assurance, we have been induced to persevere; esteeming ourselves well compensated, if we could advance the interests of religion. We rejoice to see the kingdom of the Redeemer enlarged; and we pray that the time may soon come, when he shall receive the heathen for an inheritance, and all the kingdoms of this world for a possession.

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It must indeed be animating to Christians, and especially to those in stations and relations which involve high responsibilities, touching the extension and purity of the Church, to contemplate the period when knowledge shall be so increased, that none will have occasion to direct his fellow man to know the Lord. Then shall we witness a full consummation of the excellent Collect in our Daily Service, that the ways and saving health of God may be made known to all nations and all conditions of men, faith and hope being swallowed up in the abundant fruition of those displays of divine grace, predicted of the Church in her latter day glory. Then, all who profess and call themselves Christians, will be led into the way of truth, and will hold the faith in the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life: the watchmen of Zion lifting up their voice together, and so harmonizing and co-operating in their labours, that there shall be but one fold under one shepherd.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

VOL. V.

BEING FOR THE YEAR 1825.

Page.

NUMBER I.

Theological Department.

Address of the Conductors, - 1
On the Character of the Writings of St. Paul.—No. 2. - 8
On altering the Hymns and Psalms, - - - - - - - - 16
Explanation of the Collects, with Practical Addresses for Children.—No. 1. - - - 19

Review.

The Historical Reader, designed for the use of Schools and Families, - - - - - - - 23

Literary and Philosophical Intelligence.

Collegiate Honorary Degrees Conferred in 1824, - - - 25
Washington College, Hartford, 25
University of Virginia, - - - 25
Cabinet of Minerals at Cambridge, 26
Mineralogy, - - - - - - - 27
Christianity & Mahometanism, 27
Russian Expedition, - - - 27
Important Discovery, - - - 27

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Christianity in India, - - - 28
Serampore College, - - - 28
First Protestant Missionary in Calcutta, - - - - - - - 28
Domestick and Foreign Missionary Society, - - - - 30
Convention of Ohio, - - - 32
Bishop Chase's Visit to England, 32
Legacy of John Bowdler, Esq. 33
New Churches in Ohio, - - 34
Periodical Publication in Ohio, 34
Constitution of the Theological Seminary, Ohio, - - - - 35
Eagerness of Roman Catholick Pilgrims for the Bible, - - 36
Education Society of Maryland and Virginia, - - - - 36
General Theological Seminary, 38
Transylvania University, - - 38
Donations and Subscriptions to Domestick & Foreign M. S. 39
Donations to the Society of the P. E. C. for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, - - - - - - - - - 39
Donations to the Amer. Board of Foreign Missions, - - - 39
Consecrations and Ordinations, 39
Obituary Notice of Ephraim Bradley, - - - - - - - 39
New Quarterly Theological Review in London, - - - 40

NUMBER II.

Theological Department.

On the Formation of the Words Jehovah and Elohim, - - 41
On Conformity to the Church, 46
Family Worship, - - - - 49
Essay on the Liturgy.—No. 5. 54
Expla. of the Collects.—No. 2. 57
Life a Journey, and Man a Traveller, - - - - - - 60

Poetry.

The Prospect of Death, - - 62
The Lowland's Vesper Sigh, 63

Literary and Philosophical Intelligence.

Schools in New York, - - - 63
Book of the Church, - - - 63
University of Vermont, - - 63
Lehigh Coal, - - - - - - 64
Diamonds, - - - - - - - 65
The Moon, - - - - - - - 65
Ancient Medals, - - - - - 65

Christian Statisticks.

Protestant Episcopal Churches in Philadelphia, - - - - 66
Places of Worship in Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - 66
Places of Worship in Boston, 67
Protestant Episcopal Clergy in the United States, - - - 67

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

A New Theological Review, 67
Catholicism among Missionaries, 67
Utility of Tracts among the Heathen, - - - - - - - 68

CONTENTS.

Society of the P. E. C. for the advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, - - - - 69
New York Protestant Episcopal Missionary Society, - - - 69
General Theological Seminary of the P. E. C. in the U. States, 70
Great Earthquake at Shiras, - 72
Captive Greeks, - - - - 72
Ordination, - - - - - - - 72
Institution, - - - - - - - 72
Notice to Correspondent, - - 72

NUMBER III.

Theological Department.

On the formation of the Words Adonai and Elohah, - - 73
Remarks on James ii. 10 - - 79
Bishop Ravenscroft's Sermon, 81
Explanation of the Collects.—No. III. - - - - - - - 88

Review.

The Book of the Church. By Robert Southey, - - - - 91

Literary and Philosophical Intelligence.

Charleston College, - - - 100
Bowdoin College, - - - 100
Bible Societies and Bishop Ravenscroft, - - - - - - 100
Historical Notices of St. John's Church, Elizabethtown - 101
New Dictionary, - - - - 101

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Profanation of a Church, - 102
Inquisition, - - - - - - 102
Christianity in Turkey, - - 102
Legacies of James Wills, - 103
Munificence, - - - - - - 103
Worthy of Imitation, - - 103
The Rev. Mr. Vaughn, - - 103
Miss Theresa J. De Tolenare, 104
Military Academy at West Point, - - - - - - - 104

NUMBER IV.

Theological Department.

Remarks on Jepthah's Vow, 105
Bishop Griswold's Address to the Ninth Convention of the Eastern Diocese, - - - 113
On the Universality of Human Guilt, - - - - - - - 119
Letter from a Blacksmith, &c. 119

Review.

The Book of the Church, By Robert Southey, - - - 125

Poetry.

The Grief of Judah, - - - 132
An Ode, by Bishop Horne, - 133
The Blind Man's Lament, - 133

Literary and Philosophical Department.

Publick Libraries, - - - - 134
Washington College, - - - 135
College of William and Mary, 137
University of Virginia, - - 137
Geneva College, - - - - 137
New Jersey School Fund, - 138
Collateral Bible, - - - - 138
The Church Perfect and Entire 138
Horne's Introduction, - - - 138
Hebrew Manuscript, - - - 138
Winer's Grammar, - - - 138

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Calcutta, - - - - - - - - 139
Hindoo Widows, - - - - 140
Burning of an aged Hindoo Widow, - - - - - - - 140
The Pope and the Jews, - - 141
English Church in Paris, - 141
American Revolution and Episcopal Clergymen, - - - 142
New York, - - - - - - - 142
South Carolina, - - - - 142
Ordinations, - - - - - - 143
Contributions to the Protestant Episcopal Missionary Society 144
Notice to Readers and Correspondents, - - - - - - 144

NUMBER V.

Theological Department.

The Trinity of three Persons, in one Godhead, - - - 145
Bishop Griswold's Address to the Convention, - - - - 150
Altering the Psalms and Hymns 153
Improper Conduct of Ministers 155
Explanation of the Collects, No. 4, - - - - - - - - 156
The End of Preaching, - - 162

Review.

Southey's Book of the Church, 159

Poetry.

Funeral at Sea, - - - - - 163
Hymn for Whit-Sunday, - - 163

Literary and Philosophical Department

Amherst College, - - - - 164
University of Buenos Ayres, 164
Treatise upon the Lord's Supper 165
Church of England, - - - 165
The Young Churchman's Guide 166
Catalogue of American Minerals, - - - - - - - - - 166
Cabinet of Minerals, - - - 167
Map of Palestine, - - - - 167
Rare Arabick Manuscript, - 167
Biography, - - - - - - - 167
Ancient Petrifaction, - - 167

CONTENTS.

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Account of the Temple and Worship of Juggernaut, - 168
Rise & Fall of Popery in Japan, 170
Jews in Palestine, - - - - 172
Bishop Bowen's Letter, - - 173
Fast in Massachusetts, - - 174
Ordination, - - - - - - - 175
Notice to Correspondents, - 176

NUMBER VI.

Theological Department.

Exposition of the 7th of Romans, 178
Bishop Griswold's Address, 181
City Lecturers, - - 187
Popular Objection to the Church, 189
An Essay on Amusements, 192
Thoughts on a Church Organ, 196

Poetry.

Hymn by the Bishop of Calcutta, 198
The Restoration of Israel, 199

Literary and Philosophical Department.

University of Gottingen, - 199
Biblical Learning, - - 200
Pronouncing Bible, - - 200
Biographical Dictionary, 201
Splendid Library, - - 201
Mineral Tallow, - - 201
Antediluvian Remains, - - 201
American Antiquities, - - 201

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Temple of Juggernaut, - - 202
Syrian Christians, - - - - 204
New York Convention, - - 204
Confirmation, - - - - - - 205
Church at Cambridge, - - 205
Episcopal Seminary in Ohio, 206
Bishop Tonstall and Tindal, 206
Dr. Chalmers, - - - - - - 206
Burying Alive, - - - - - 207
Church Building, - - - - 207
Episcopal Clergy, - - - 208
Ordinations, - - - - - - - 208
Earthquake at Belida, - - 208
Notice to Readers and Correspondents, - - - - - - - 208

NUMBER VII.

Theological Department.

The Golden Candlestick in Zechariah's Vision, ... 209
Bishop Moore's Pastoral Address, ... 214
Bishop Bowen's Address to the Convention of South Carolina, 218
Popular Objections to the Church, No. II. 223
An Essay on Amusements, . 225
Bishop Griswold's Remarks on Moral Virtue, ... 230

Literary and Philosophical Department.

Agricultural Schools, . . . 231
Churchman's Magazine, . . 231
Year of Noah's Flood, . . 231
Bishop Latimer, ... 231
Villers on the Reformation, . 232
Subsistence of the Baltic, . 232
Smoke, ... 232
Meteorological Observations, 233
New Theory of Vision, . . 233

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Account of Juggernaut, . . 234
Convention of Massachusetts, 237
Missionary Society in Massachusetts, ... 238
Church at Cambridge, . . 238
Convention of Connecticut, . 239
Convention of New Jersey, . 239
State of the Church in Massachusetts, ... 240
Notice to Correspondents and Readers, ... 240

NUMBER VIII.

Theological Department.

Necessity of Mysteries in Revelation, ... 241
Bishop White's Address, . . 243
Bishop Moore's Valedictory Address, ... 248
Bishop Chase's Address, . . 251
Popular Objections to the Church, No. III, ... 259
Bishop Griswold's Remarks on Conformity to the Church, 261
On worshipping the Son and Holy Ghost, ... 262

Literary and Philosophical Department.

New Family Bible, ... 264
Whelpley's Compend of History 264
Interior of Africa, ... 264
Schools in Greece, ... 265
American Publications, . . 265
Writing on Boards covered with Sand, ... 265
Rev. Mr. Strong's Sermon, . 265
New Universal Gazetteer, . 266
Western University of Pa. . 266

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Intelligence from India, . . 266
American Bible Society, . . 267
Receipts of Charitable Societies 267
Church in Virginia, ... 268
Church in North Carolina, . 268
Episcopal Seminary in Ohio, 268
Massachusetts E. M. Society, 268
State of Religion in Pennsylvania, ... 269

CONTENTS.

Church in Georgia, . . . 270
Funeral of Bishop Mountain, 270
Ordinations, ... 270
Singular Will, ... 271
The City of Jerusalem, . . 272
Different Colours in Mourning, 272
Notice to Readers and Correspondents, ... 272

NUMBER IX.

Theological Department.

Importance of Ecclesiastical History, ... 273
Episcopal Journal in North Carolina, ... 277
Julian the Apostate, . . . 279
Popular Objections to the Church, No. IV. 282
On Altering the Metrical Psalms, ... 284
The True Christian, . . . 286
Conversion and Forgiveness of Sins, ... 288

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Extract of a Letter from India, 293
Baptist Mission at Serampore, 293
Church in England, . . . 294
Church of England Missions, 295
Anniversaries in London, . 296
General Theological Seminary, 297
London Charity Schools, . . 299
Church in Rhode Island, . . 300
Memoirs of Mrs. Winthrop, . 300
Rev. Joseph Pilmore, . . . 304
Notice to Readers and Correspondents, ... 304

NUMBER X.

Theological Department.

Christian Catholicism, . . . 305
Bishop Ravenscroft's Charge, 306
Popular Objections to the Church, No. V. 313
Obscurity of Scripture, . . 316
Commentary on the Burial of the Dead, ... 317
The Infidel Diderot, . . . 320
Apocalyptical Key, ... 321

Poetry.

Hymn, ... 325
To Pneuma, ... 326

Literary and Philosophical Department.

Collegiate Record for 1825, . 327
Mazarine Bible, ... 328
Collection of Antiquities, . . 328
Fowler's Exposition, . . . 329

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Epis. Floating Chapel Society, 329
Massachusetts Episcopal Missionary Society, ... 331
New Jersey Convention, . . 333
Ministerial Labour, ... 334
Worship preferred to Preaching 334
Mission to the Samoiedes, . 334
Rev .Mr. Wayland's Sermon, 335
Extraordinary Munificence, . 335
Eastern Diocese, ... 336
Ordinations, ... 336

NUMBER XI.

Theological Department.

Convention Sermon, . . . 337
Bishop Griswold's Address, . 346
Bishop' Hobart's Address, . 356
Address at an Ordination, . 359

Literary and Philosophical Department.

Collegiate Record, ... 360
Scripture Paraphrases, . . 361
Bishop Kemp's Address, . . 361
Alphabets, ... 363
Circulation of the Blood, . . 363

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Sierra Leone, ... 363
Theological Seminary, . . 364
Green Bay Mission, . . . 365
Church in Maryland, . . . 365
Obituary of Lieut. Gardner, . 366
American Board of Foreign Missions, ... 367
Caution in Visiting Sick Rooms 367
The Jew in Wilna, ... 368
Ordinations, ... 368

NUMBER XII.

Theological Department.

Extracts of Mosheim, . . . 369
Christmas Sermon, ... 372
Address of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Brownell, to the Convention of the P. E. C. in Connecticut, ... 381
Evidence of being a Christian, 385

Literary and Philosophical Department.

Denmark Universities, . . 389
Prussian Universities, . . . 389
University of Virginia, . . 390
Redeemer's Advent, . . 390
Welsh Antiquities, ... 391
Medical Schools, ... 392
Canals of Great Britain, . . 392
Origin of the term Sterling, for Money, ... 392

Religious and Miscellaneous Intelligence.

Jesuits in England, ... 392
Russian Mission in China, . 392
Missionary Society in Ohio, . 393
Obituary of Mrs. S. M. Usher, 394
Baptism of a Jew, ... 395
Church in Middlebury, Vt. . 396
Ordinations, ... 396